

MAJ. GEN. GEORGE WINDLE READ
SKETCH OF MILITARY LIFE OF OFFICER WHO COMMANDED "THIRTIETH" A WHILE

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Major General George Windle Read, though an Iowan by birth, is intimately connected with the military record of North Carolina, because he commanded the Thirtieth Division for a while, and then the Second American Corps, of which the Thirtieth Division was a part. General Read has served actively in the army for forty-one years, in six campaigns, and in capacities as varied as the army affords.

Born in Iowa November 19, 1860, he graduated from West Point in 1883, receiving assignment to the Sixteenth Infantry. Transferring to the Fifth Cavalry September 1883, he served continuously with that regiment till 1889, during which time it was stationed in Wyoming, Kansas, and Indian Territory. Leaving his regiment in 1889, he served as Professor of Military Science and Tactics in Iowa State University till 1893, when he rejoined his regiment in Texas.

In 1897 he became Aide de Camp to General J. F. Wade in the Department of the Lakes, with St. Paul, Minnesota, as headquarters. From here he went with General Wade to Havana, Cuba, in 1898, served there on the Evacuation Commission till 1899 and returned to St. Paul at the conclusion of the Spanish-American War. In the meantime he had been promoted to First Lieutenant. In 1899 he was promoted to Captain, assigned to the 9th Cavalry in the West, and sent with it to the Philippine Islands in 1900. In the Philippines he served successively as Regimental Adjutant, Squadron Commander, Adjutant General of Brigade, and Judge Advocate of the Department South Luzon.

Returning to the United States in command of troops on the transport *Sheriden* in 1902, he commanded the First Squadron, Ninth Cavalry, at Presidio of Monterey till 1903. During this time he was a member of the Horse Purchasing Board for Cavalry in the Northwestern States, and in 1903 he helped make a military survey of the Hawaiian Islands. From June, 1905, till June, 1909, he was on the General Staff, during which time he was on the General Staff of the Army of Cuban Pacification from 1906 till 1908, president of the Claims Commission in 1908, and Military Governor of Pinar del Rio, 1908. Relieved from the General Staff in 1909, he served with the Seventh Cavalry in Kansas till April 1, 1910, when he was promoted to Major and assigned to the Eighth Cavalry. While in Kansas in 1910 he was Chief Umpire of Maneuver Camp, Fort Riley, Kansas. He went for a second tour in the Philippines in 1910, where he stayed until 1912. He then returned to the United States for assignment to the Ninth Cavalry, his old regiment. 1913-'14 he studied in the War College, receiving rank as Lieutenant Colonel in 1914, and serving in the Adjutant-General's Department until 1915. July, 1916, he was promoted to Colonel, and August, 1917, to Brigadier General in the National Army and assigned to command the 152nd Depot Brigade at Camp Upton, New York. On November 28, 1917, he was again promoted, this time to Major General, N. A., and assigned to command the Fifteenth Cavalry Division, El Paso, Texas.

In April, 1918, he was assigned to command of the Thirtieth Division, and embarked for France in May of that year. But in June, 1918, he was assigned to command the Second Corps, composed of the Twenty-seventh and Thirtieth Divisions. General Read commanded this corps in Belgium and in France in the great fighting. After the armistice he commanded the Le Mans area, February, 1919, and the Forty-second Division, March and April, 1919. In the Forty-second or Rainbow Division he again commanded a unit of North Carolina troops in the Engineer train of that Division. he returned to the United States in April, 1919. In the meantime, in November, 1918, General Read had received permanent appointment to the rank of Brigadier General, Regular Army, and on July 3, 1920, he was promoted to Major General, Regular Army, and assigned to command the Fifth Corps Area with headquarters at Fort Benjamin, Harrison, Indiana.